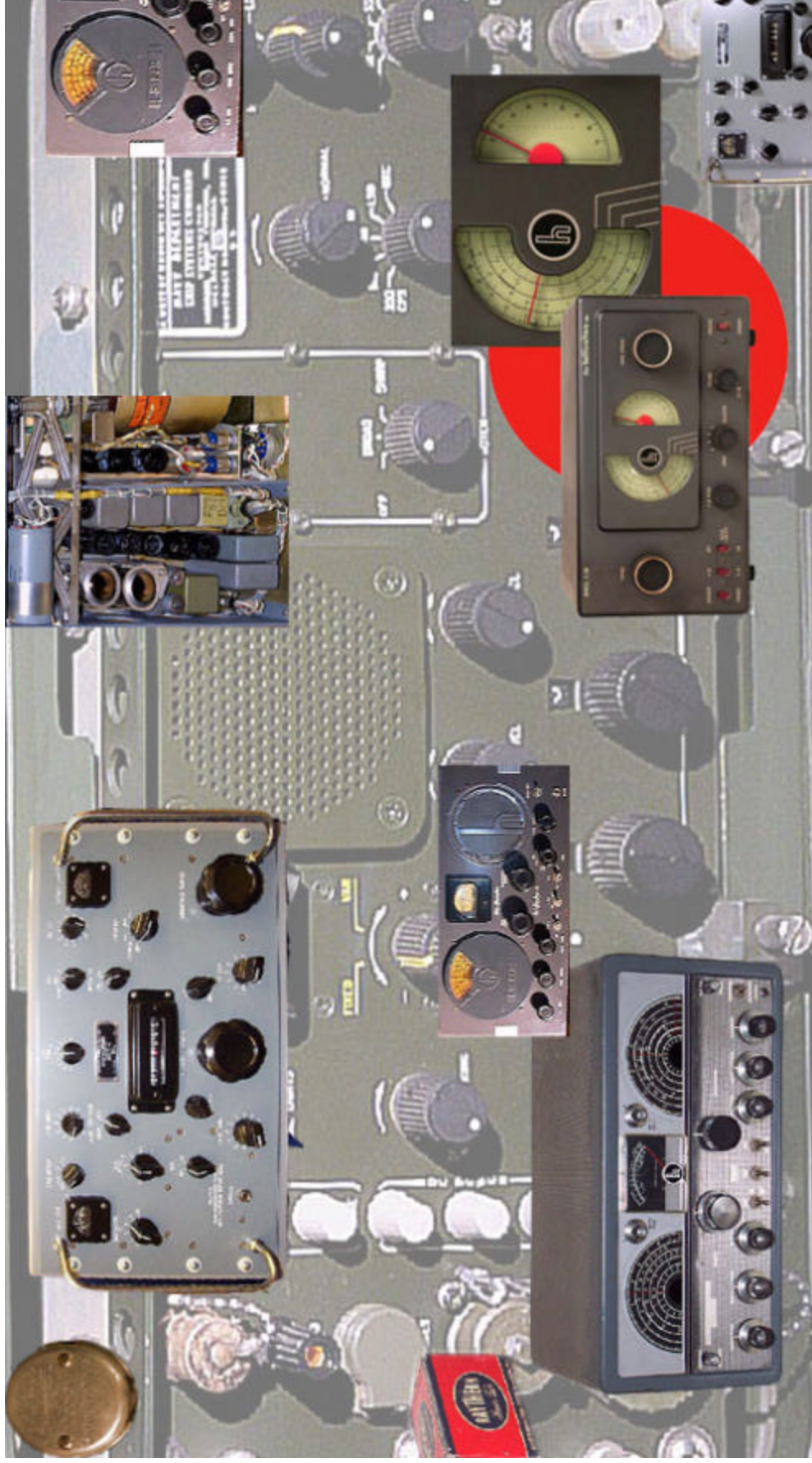




southern california dx club

April 2004



From the Prezz



Spring is here, plenty of contest to be worked and hoping that propagation holds up, Amateur Radio will continue to thrive. April has also brought us to very Special Holidays for celebration, Passover and Easter. To all enjoy your celebrations, be safe, and healthy and at best be ready for the biggest and the best ever, the one and

the only 55th Visalia International DX Convention.

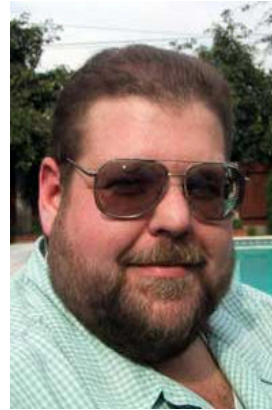
If you haven't signed up or are still contemplating, move away from that rig, get out of your chair, fill out the application found on our webpage www.scdxc.org/visalia and get it to Don Bostrom, N6IC. There won't be anyone to work, they will all be at the convention April 23-25. Talking about the convention. Carl & I will be hosting the last Convention meeting at our new QTH, which will be over by the time this newsletter appears. But I know we had a good time finishing up final work and a BBQ. (That's if it didn't rain) HI HI

Our house is coming along nicely. Putting in a walk way to the front entrance, mostly a rough walk way until I know exactly what we want. Garage is all painted and things are getting put into their proper places, slowly.....

Looking forward to the convention, hope to see you all there, we will miss some and look forward to seeing old friends. Remember every ticket counts and boy oh boy what fun we will have. See you there!

73

VEEeeeep Talk



Wow! What a March this has been on the bands. Not only did I complete my 5BDXCC, but I also worked DXCC on 160m and WAZ on CW. Okay, okay, so most of you have figured out by now that this IS the April issue of the newsletter. However, it was a good March for me on the bands having picked up 2 all-time new ones and 6 to 7 new ones

on both 40m and 75m, not to mention XF4IH on everything from DC to light.

I was talking to the Webmaster the other day and he told me that several people have received an e-mail from management@scdxc.org stating that "your e-mail account has been temporary disabled because of unauthorized access". This is a completely bogus e-mail and the attached file contains a virus. Don't be fooled by this type of e-mail just because the "From:" field says it's from someone you know. It may not really be from that person. If you don't run quality anti-virus software that does automatic interactive updates, you are asking for trouble. Using anti-virus software that only updates every week or two is not good enough. I have had my software update itself 2, 3, or 4 times a day when a new virus comes out. Remember the old adage "you get what you pay for". So if you paid nothing for your virus software... well you get my point.

Now, on to something more fun.

The Annual SCDXC picnic will be June 12th at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. We will once again be selling spots for this year's drawing; the prize

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held May 13, 2004 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot.

Please do not park in the school lot.

The Visalia DX Convention takes the place of the normal General meeting in April.

BUBBA's Spot DE, Bob, W6ZPL



Hi to all. Another month gone and another month closer to Visalia, the only reason I like April. I am really looking forward to the whole weekend. This year the XYL is going to attend for the first time. She will help out where needed and go on the Saturday tour. I'm sure (afraid?) she will fit right in with the wild women

just fine. Maybe my carefree radio days will be a thing of the past. Oh well, after being married for 40 years, things could be worse. She has spent the last 6 weeks studying the Gordon West Radio School study program and will attend the class March 20 and 21 in Costa Mesa. I am sure there will be one more ZPL in So. Cal. My grandson Rick is N1ZPL and got his ticket while visiting us one summer. It was his idea for me to get a vanity... now Grandma, K6ZPL?

As always, I had a good time at the March meeting. I really look forward to the programs and Skips was no exception. I am not well traveled and more than likely will not go to far from Southern California so I get to travel on the radio and DXpeditions. The meeting was well attended with some visitors and a new member. I brought Julio, AD6DK, I met

Julio on the air when he was working from the Queen Mary, W6RO. When he found out he lived close to me he stopped by the office to say "hi" and we went to lunch and our friendship grew from there. You should know he is blind. He won't tell you and he won't use a cane, so watch out for my friend, just in case he needs to be steered in the right direction. When you meet him be ready to laugh. Ask him how he solders... terrible, or climbs ladders... falls, or doing yard work... can you say snake?

I just got a note confirming Elvin, JA3CZY, is coming for Visalia. He will arrive on the 14th and stay with Carl, AG6X, in Fallbrook, then come to my house on the 18th and stay with me then we will head to Visalia. I am looking forward to lots of laughs and stories, Elvin is a very proud Grandpa and so am I. My newest grandson, Jared, is due April 16th and I hope Elvin can hold him. I'll have bragging rights for a while, at least until his next one arrives. I'm thinking this will be my last grandchild. I have a 22 year old Grandson and an 18 year Granddaughter and I'm looking for Great Grandkids soon.

Another great raffle, with nice prizes. Congrats to NT6AA for winning the Heil headset, K8RD won a nice meter and I won a handy vise. It only took one whine, and I presented it to DHZ in the hopes when he is working on my stuff with it. I'm sure it will be safe and secure. To all the other winners, next time may your ticket be pulled 1st or 2nd. That's it for this month, see you in Visalia.



A PINK Badge!

It appears a sub-committee of the SCDXC board decided to celebrate the election of our very first YL president. After herb sobered up, a PINK badge had been ordered. Here seen at the last club meeting—a formal presentation.

PLAYING GOLF

Don't forget to check with Don Bostrom

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

A happy Passover and Easter to the SCDXC gang.

Save some appetite for the U.S. Towers lunch at Visalia/

A NEW CONTEST

Submit articles for the newsletter and win free raffle tickets!

Propagation

De W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several



locations that are expected to be active during the coming month. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 105, corresponding to a sunspot number of 54, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

9N Nepal - 4/10 to 4/13 - Beam 337 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/12) 0002/1240
20: 1400-1530.
15: 0100-0400.

FM Martinique - 4/9 to 4/14 - Beam 96 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/12) 0956/2214
80: 0430-0900.
40: 0230-1000.
20: 0000-0530.
15: 1500-0300.

V6 Micronesia - 4/9 to 4/17 - Beam 274 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/13) 1936/0745
80: 1000-1300.
40: 0800-1300.
20: 0600-0930 and 1400-1600.
15: 1930-0630.

V2 Antigua - 4/15 to 4/20 - Beam 93 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/18) 0953/2220
80: 0430-0900.
40: 0230-1000.
20: 0000-0600 and 1130-1200.
15: 1530-0230.

KH2 Guam - 4/18 to 4/21 - Beam 285 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/20) 2009/0831

80: 1100-1230.
40: 0900-1330.
20: 0700-1000 and 1330-1530.
15: 2000-0700.

8Q Maldives - 4/13 to 4/27 - Beam 342 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/20) 0104/1310
20: 1330-1600. Long path 0130-0230 and 1200-1400.
15: 0130-0230.

7Q Malawi - 4/18 to 5/1 - Beam 57 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/25) 0355/1530
40: 0300-0400.
20: 0030-0130 and 0430-0530.
15: 1730-2400. Long path 1330-1530.

3X Guinea - 4/18 to 5/2 - Beam 73 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 4/25) 0636/1855
80: 0330-0600.
40: 0200-0700.
20: 2300-0430 and around 0730.
15: 1730-0100.

HAM PUZZLE de Milt, W6JRO



Pile ups

At twilight recently on 20 meter cw, there were 3 choice DX stations. A VU, 4S7, and an XU spaced below 14.020 MHz. There were 3 pile-ups immediately. One fifth of the DXers were trying to work the VU, one third, the 4S7 and 3 times the difference between the 4S7 and the VU, were trying to work the XU.

One neophyte active DX hunter, new on the DX scene, heard all of them but could not decide which one to call. How many active DXers were on at that time (that we know about), and how many of those were in each pileup?

VEEeep Talk

(cont de p 2)

will be a Kenwood TS-480 (HF, 6m, VHF, UHF). I will be selling squares on the board for \$10.00 each and you can get them from me by mail, in Visalia or at the May meeting. If you have not been to the picnic, you really should try to make it. Be sure to bring the wife and kids and spend a fun day in the park with family and friends. For details, see the SCDXC Web site.

As all of you know, we lost one of our charter members this last month with the passing of Art, W6EA. While I did not know Art as long or as well as most of you, the times I did spend with him were very enjoyable and educational. I don't think anyone put it better than Martti, OH2BH "Rest in peace Art - you were the true Deserving".

This is a good opportunity to remind everyone we would like to see you submit or update your listing in the DX standings on the Web page. Maybe one of you could unseat Andy, EU7SA at the top of the WAZ list.

Jan, N6AW still has a number of items from the W6FRZ estate for sale please see the web site for a list of items and contact information. www.scdxc.org/w6frz

At the last meeting I noticed that someone was sporting a pink badge. Yes, that's right, a pink badge. It seems that someone (Herb, KG6OK) decided our new president needed a pink badge. So with the help of another club officer (me) a badge was acquired and I think a new tradition was started. So who will be the next to get a pink badge? Someone already in the club... maybe someone who is just getting started... or perhaps someone who has been around the club for years and is just now working on a license? I guess we will just have to wait and see...

There will be no April meeting so we will see everyone in Visalia.

73 DE Jim, N6DHz

W6MR SK

Joe Clement, W6MR, killed in
It's been reported on speedzone
nitro Funny Car driver Joe Clem
accident while returning home fr
very good friend of N6RJ (SK).
installations for some BIG statio



10 March 2004

To all of the So. Ca. DX Club members!

The family of W6EA Arthur V. Flockson thank you for the beautiful flowers and for attending his services.

As you know, the club was very important to him and especially the friendship of all of you DX'ers. Ham Radio really was his life and I as his wife understood that. Thanks for being so good to him.

Virginia P. Flockson, Son Brad, Fred and Carolyn

DX IS NOT ALL... THERE IS in Visalia— SIGN UP FOR THE TOUR !!

Treat yourself to a fun filled day on a comfortable bus making new friends and taking a tour of the Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, lunch in Reedley and of course shopping.

The tour will assemble in front of the Holiday Inn at 9:00 am on Saturday and travel to the "[Squaw Valley Herb Gardens](#)" Where you will discover the beauty, health and flavor of herbs all in a beautiful foothill setting.

From there you will travel to the historic city of [Reedley](#). Named after Civil war hero Thomas Law Reed and although settled in the 1800's the city was not incorporated until 1913. After you have lunch at a local establishment you will spend the afternoon visiting the [sites](#) of Reedley including the Mennonite Quilting Center and [shopping](#) in [Historic Downtown](#). Treat yourself to a fun filled day on a comfortable bus making new friends and taking a tour of the Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, lunch in Reedley and of course shopping.

THE ADVENTURES OF THE DXER

EPISODE 26: THE ATTACK OF THE ALPHABET IMPAIRED

Heard recently on 20m SSB:

"CQ CQ DX. This is P5AA listening up five."

This was a well-publicized operation, sporting a Kilowatt out and a beam pointed stateside. He's 20 over on the West Coast, Q5 in the East.

A JA calls and completes the exchange. Next a USA "left coaster" gets through. **The DXer** is in his shack thumbing through Martti Laine's *"Where Do We Go Next?"* when he glances over at the computer just as a line scrolls across the screen. The "spot" has hit the packet cluster and the internet faster than you can say: "QSL route?" The frequency is instant bedlam. **The DXer** rushes to hit the amplifier switch with one hand while the other grabs the rotator control.

The policemen quickly show up on the DX frequency. A rare few of them even have the good sense to transmit *only* when the DX isn't.

P5AA: *"OK guys. Spread out. Listening up five and ten. P5AA QRZed."*

Those five KHz become wall-to-wall noise. The P5 picks out a call. Another Q is logged. The deserving tune frantically to find the last spot. There seems to be no pattern. But **The DXer** realizes that the P5 is alternating between the two frequencies five and ten up and not those in between. *"He said five and ten, not five to ten. Aha!"*

P5AA: *"Listening up five and fifteen. QRZed."*

A policeman on the DX frequency, in response to the inevitable wrong VFO key press: *"Up, Up, Up! Five to fifteen, Lid!"* ("Five to fifteen" ? So much for the self-styled policeman's listening skills not to mention the QRM from his lousy timing and lengthy diatribe.)

The DXer splits up fifteen. He calls. No joy. A quick check at five up. P5AA is running Qs in rapid succession. **The DXer** tries there. No luck. Too late. Too many "guns" already calling. He punches the up fifteen frequency already in memory. There's the last Q. He's got the pattern.

P5AA: *"QRZed listening up five to fifteen."*

The DXer puzzles: *"What? 'To'? Must be a ploy to thin the herd from where he's really listening. I'll just sit at fifteen up and wait 'til he comes around."*

Alas, **The DXer** isn't the only one to have devised this strategy. The competition is fierce. At least it's

better than **The Lazy DXer**, poor chump, who picks a frequency right in the middle of the range and calls non-stop, hoping sooner or later that he'll get through as the P5 tunes randomly. He's clueless as to the P5's listening pattern.

P5AA: *"The station ending Echo. Again please."*

Up fifteen: *"Alpha...Zulu...Charlie...Saoooth American Station....."*

P5AA: *"I said the station ending Echo, only."*

The DXer realizes he's one of the guilty. *"Whoops,"* he thinks. *"I hope he didn't hear too much of my call. I'll lay low for a few Qs. Don't want to tick him off...."*

Meanwhile, up fifteen: *"Alpha... Alpha... Alpha"*

P5AA: *"Alpha. Does your call end in Echo?"*

Up fifteen: Dead silence.

P5AA: *"That's what I thought. You guys fail the alphabet test in elementary school?..... The six station ending Echo only. Again please."*

Up fifteen: *"Whiskey Baker Six Radio Sugar Echo"*

P5AA: *"Whiskey Baker Six Radio Sugar Echo, five and nine."*

Up fifteen: *"Five and nine. Thanks!"*

P5AA: *"QSL. QRZed. Up."*

Up fifteen: All hell breaks loose.

It took **The DXer** more than two hours to finally get through. It happened just as he was getting ready to throw the switch, his arm tiring of tuning the sub-receiver and pushing the memory buttons, frustrated by continually picking the wrong frequency. He thought he was beginning to see smoke rise from the amp's power transformer. He'd decided on just one more try, goes to five up and gets through immediately. This left him to ponder the question: *"Why do I always get through on the last call?"* We'll leave him to work that one out alone.

Please join us for our next episode when we interview **The DXer** and ask: "So you got a one by two call to get through the pile ups fast. Why then do you invariably repeat your call three times?"

See you in the pile-ups. 73, Steve WB6RSE

ALL-TIME RECORD SET!

The new electronic QSL data base, Logbook of The World, implemented by the ARRL has set an all-time record for complaints about QSL return speed! Hams who have uploaded their logs are now able, due to the blazing speed of the Internet, able to begin posting complaints, also due to the blazing speed of the Internet, about the lack of return contact credits. The fastest complaint appears to have been generated in less than 24 hours! Well done! No word on whether this was an F-layer or tropospheric gripe.

In a sad note, this puts in jeopardy the traditional process for complaint generation: QSL, Wait, Gripe. To keep up with the accelerated flow of information, some DX-ers are preparing pre-emptive gripes, removing "Wait" from the process entirely. It is reported that LoTW staff is looking into the process of adding GoTW (Gripe of The World) whereby an eGripe can be sent automatically to all DX and Contest Reflectors immediately on acceptance of the contact credit request. No word on whether the

(Continued on page 9)

The Two-Suitcase DX-Venture

There is such a thrill hearing a signal from an exotic location, visualizing the operator under a palm tree. I want to pack my bags, and I'll bet you do too. Actually, it's not as difficult as you might think, and there are a lot of wonderful travel destinations in the world that are surrounded by warm water.

I had an opportunity to do just that in February 2004. One of my loves other than radio is chasing Bonefish, a terrific game fish that is found in the warm waters around Caribbean islands. I had been thinking about a trip to The Bahamas and noticed that I could make the trip coincide with the ARRL DX CW contest.

Airlines allow two pieces of checked luggage plus one carry-on and a personal item, which can include a laptop computer. Subtract one case for clothing and personal items and you end up needing to fit the radio equipment into two suitcases. I put the main radio equipment into the carry-on as I didn't want to trust the baggage handlers.

I chose IC-706 and added a 500 Hz filter. I live in a community with CC&R's so I am antenna challenged already. My primary home antenna is a Force 12 Sigma 5 vertical. It works well on all bands from 20 thru 10. I prepared an 80 meter dipole with enough small rope so as to be able, hopefully, to find a place to hang it. I needed a 40 meter antenna and wanted a backup as I did not know what I was getting into, so I took a small HF vertical antenna from Ventenna, a 24-inch long, 2 lb. package. Finally, I took an MFJ-421 antenna tuner.

We arrived at our location, North Riding Point Club on Grand Bahama Island, I got all the equipment unpacked, hooked it up, erected the antennas, and C6AWS was on the air.



Randy—Hard at work

Because of the fishing commitment and the need to minister to my XYL's needs, I didn't get in as much itinerant DXing as I had hoped, mostly after getting back from fishing and after dinner. Nonetheless, I did manage 200 QSO's with US hams and another 200 non-NA stations, including 57 countries. That's more than I contact in a year from the West Coast

The contest was a hoot but I was unprepared for the way the bands sound from the East Coast. The bottom 60Hz of any active band was wall-to-wall European stations, mostly above S9 on the meter. It seemed as if the most common thing I heard was, "5NN K." Hard to find a slot!

I was fishing during the day so was able to start again after getting back. 15 and 20 meters were great from the West Coast to Bahamas and was able to run at great rate. The best time was late

(Continued on page 9)



The station C6AWS



(Continued from page 8)



Sunday. In the last two hours guys are tuning up and down the bands trying to find "new meat," and I was it. I started with 2 hrs, 12 minutes left in the contest. I managed to make 290 QSO's, an average rate of 130 per hour, and occasionally I hit 150 per hour.

In my 20 hours of operation I made 1,103 QSO's, and a claimed score of 560,000. That's not huge, but sure a lot better than I had ever done being a W6 S&P station. It was much more fun being the object of affection of so many hams.

The good news is that I have figured out how to fit a station into luggage that I can take anywhere. So can you! You just need to be a little more creative about your vacations. You can let the XYL think about the beaches, and you just make sure that the beach is some place from which you can operate. Based upon my experience, I would recommend a two-suitcase station to any ham, but I would get a carry-on bag with wheels. For the next trip, if I'm willing to take a chance on the antenna, maybe I can get my radio gear into just one suitcase.

A NEW CONTEST!

Submit articles to the newsletter to win raffle tickets. Vote for your favorite. Send votes to editor..

eGripe will be free, the current cost, or if a small fee will be charged. Volume GoTW users will be offered discounts which they may be able to parsimoniously dribble out over several years. There may even be a trading market established in unused GoTW credits - International Gripe Coupons or IGCs.

This accelerated griping facility is just the latest step in a long series of improvements to the griping process. In early days gripes had to be delivered in person at a club meeting or typed and mailed. TYPED! Oh, the inhumanity! Over the years, griping technology has improved dramatically from on-the-air transmissions, to packet BBS, to individual emails, and finally to today's state-of-the-art, reflector-based griping in which a single gripe can today be transmitted worldwide in a matter of seconds.

What next for the Amateur Griper Extra-Class? Of course, we are just seeing the early days of pre-emptive griping, so it's a little hard to tell where this might lead. Anticipatory griping can't be far behind. Applying reverse-Bayesian statistics might also allow blanket spam

gripes, or "gram". Such gripes would be called "gram-grams." It is undecided at this time what the process for certifying whether such a gripe would "count," although Gripe Control Stations (GCS) could be established to rule quickly, giving gripers the coveted confirmation of, "That's a Good One!" No word on what the gripe submission process to a GCS would consist of.

One might also consider the quantum mechanical implications of the "virtual gripe", where no actual gripe need be transmitted, but would be considered to be a latent component subunit of any QSL - the anti-QSL! By studying the high-temperature collisions of QSLs and anti-QSLs produced in flame wars, DXologists hope to learn more about the underlying structure of both, thought to be composed of "quirks". Theory predicts several varieties of quirks; Big Gun, Little Pistol, Phone, CW, Strange, and Colorful. DX QSL managers have reported on these events for years, so there is an extensive and documented historical record for scholars to consider.

Once again, congratulations to the amateur community for taking full advantage of new technology to update the time-honored griping process! Who says that hams are behind the technological curve?

73

Ward Silver, NØAX

INFORMATION WANTED

We received the following request for information from KC7CCF. If any of the club members have made contact or have QSL's please contact Joey directly.

"As part of an ongoing research project I am collecting any info related to The Peoples Temple /Jonestown and their involvement with amateur radio. I have contacted hams whose experiences range from a single casual QSO with Jonestown to hams that recorded communications between Jonestown and their stateside affiliates. I am collecting all forms of information, such as copies of QSL cards received from the Jonestown settlement, to copies of logbook entries, and copies of the kind of tapes I mentioned...even down to individual stories."

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

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Club Repeater: W6AM/R
145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL
Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org
Newsletter Editor:
Harvey Shore K6EXO
6433 Pat Ave West Hills, CA
91307

WTB

Got a spare HT you're not using? Newly-licensed local hams are looking for simple HT's suitable for beginners. 2-mtrs or 220 in good working order with PL and a few memories. Operating instructions, extra battery packs, alkaline packs would also help. Contact Chuck KN6H at (310) 325-3184 or KN6H@arrl.net.

ASTRON P.S.

13 V 20 A

I have a few of these—with and without meters. Email for information.
k6exo@scdxc.org



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ARTICLES NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

Send us your favorite stories—handi hints—QSLs, etc
How about that big score you made in the contest? How did you do it? We want to print your stuff.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to membership chairman: Larry Mallek 2528 Britain Way, Anaheim CA, 92801-1413

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

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